



# LARC



Volume 59, Number 02

ACADIANA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOC., INC. - a 501(c)3 Corporation

February 2019

## AARA General Meeting ~ January 3, 2019

**General** Club President Chris Ancelet N5MCY opened at 7:00 PM and conducted the meeting. Club Vice President Larry Leblanc KE5KJD led the group in the opening prayer. Chris led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance after which Sandy Leblanc KE5KJF recited the pledge in Cajun French.

Galen Wilson KF5BET circulated a get well card to be sent to Christine Lenoir, wife of Richard Lenoir with Main Trading Company, wishing her a swift recovery from her recent surgery.

Chris reminded the group that the minutes of last month's General Meeting were published in the LARC. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Brandon Stelly KG5LQM, seconded by Danny Daigle KD5JSM and approved by the group.

Since club Treasurer Tom Dischler W5OHJ was absent with the flu, no treasurer's report was given. Additionally, since club Secretary David McCutcheon KG5JHR was out of town, collection of 2019 membership applications was postponed until the next meeting.

**Club Activities** Chris recapped the list of 2018 club events that included Winter Field Day, AARA Hamfest, Tabasco Sauce Anniversary Special Event, Summer Field Day, Tour de Teche canoe race and the Veterans Day Special Event.

Chris summarized the club's Veterans Day Special Event which was held in November at the Southwest Louisiana Veterans Home in Jennings, LA. The facility staff was very appreciative of the club's efforts to honor these veterans and looks forward to hosting additional events in 2019. Cold weather reduced the number of facility residents that could visit the outdoor station which was set up outside the rear of the facility. For subsequent events efforts will be made to set up the station inside the facility. Conducting events in the spring when the weather is more pleasant will also be considered. Steve Webre recognized Chris for the work he put in to initiate and coordinate the event.

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## AARA GENERAL MEETING

**February 7, 2019 @ 7:00 PM**

Lafayette Science Museum 433 Jefferson St. Lafayette, LA

[www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/](http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/)

**VE Testing @ 6:00 PM**

*The LARC is published monthly  
By the*

*Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.*

*P. O. Box 51174*

*Lafayette, LA 70505-1174*

**DATES TO REMEMBER****GENERAL MEETING**

February 7, 2018 @ 7:00 PM  
 Lafayette Science Museum  
 433 Jefferson Street  
 Lafayette, LA

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/>  
 Local 2-Meter Nets

**Monday**

AARA Monday Night Net 7:00 PM  
 146.820 PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

**Tuesday**

Region 4 SkyWarn Net 7:00 PM  
 145.370 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA

**Wednesday**

Silent Key Memorial Net 6:30 PM  
 145.410 No PL New Iberia, LA

**Thursday**

Youth Net 7:00 PM  
 146.820 - PL 103.5 Lafayette, LA  
 EchoLink Node: 370324

**AARA OFFICERS 2018 - 2019**

President – Chris Ancelet KG5MCY  
[cancelet@gmail.com](mailto:cancelet@gmail.com)  
 V. Pres. - Larry LeBlanc KE5KJD  
 Secy – David McCutcheon KG5JHR  
 Treasurer - Tom Dischler W5OHJ

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP  
 Steve Webre AF5VR  
 Paula Romero KF5CNS

**YOUTH MEMBER**

Page Romero KG5VPR

**QSL MANAGER**

Roland Guidry - NA5Q

**PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER**

Herman Campbell - KN5GRK  
 337-234-5364 [kn5grk@lusfiber.net](mailto:kn5grk@lusfiber.net)

**AARA REPEATER GROUP**

Charlie Morrison N5WE - Trustee  
 Derek Meche WM5TS  
 Dave Redfern N4ELM  
 Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP

**LCARC DELEGATES**

Fred Marshall W5MLE  
 Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Joseph "Moe" Meaux – K2JDM  
[jdmiaux2002@gmail.com](mailto:jdmiaux2002@gmail.com)

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Since the Tabasco Sauce Special Event was held in conjunction with their 150th anniversary no repeat of this event is currently scheduled for this year. The option to have one is open should the club wish to pursue it.

Winter Field Day activities will be conducted at the farm of Steve Webre in Church Point. Tentative plans are to finish tuning and deploy the club's 80/40 portable dipoles along with the club's two VHF/HF go-kits. If weather permits, mobilization of the club's communications and antenna trailers will be considered. Chris will submit a flyer to be sent to the membership informing them of the planned activities and requesting from them an indication of their attendance plans.

Paul McCasland N5KNY stated that the Lafayette Science Museum (LSM) will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and suggested the club consider conducting a special event in conjunction with the LSM anniversary.

Additional club events tentatively planned for 2019 include AARA Hamfest in March, ARRL Field Day in June and the Tour de Teche canoe race in October.

**Nomination of Officers** Chris informed the membership that the Nomination Committee has not completed preparing their list of proposed club officers. Therefore presentation of this list to the membership has been postponed. The Nomination Committee's proposed slate of officers will be presented to the membership at the February General Meeting and additional nominations taken from the membership. The membership will then cast their votes for club officers that same night. Anyone wishing to serve as a club officer is encouraged to contact the Nomination Committee Chairman Galen Wilson KF5BET. Larry Leblanc KE5KJD reminded members that the club By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation can be found on the club web site. These organizational documents outline the various officers and their respective duties.

**HAMFEST** Hamfest Chairman Brandon Stelly KG5LQM and Galen Wilson KF5BET updated the group on preparations for this year's hamfest. The event will be held March 8 – 9 at the Rayne Civic Center. Access to the facility on Thursday may not be available so additional manpower will be needed to Friday to help get vendors unloaded and set up. Crawfish and music is planned.

Recommendations for items to sell in the Sweet Shop are requested.

Hamfest Chairman Brandon Stelly KG5LQM updated the group on the status of preparations for this year's hamfest. The event will be held March 8 – 9 at the Rayne Civic Center. Ways to increase revenue to offset increased facility rental fees were discussed along with ways to increase attendance by the public. Having the Rayne city government co-sponsor the event will be evaluated in more detail. Galen and Glen will start contacting last year's vendors to determine their participation in this year's event. Brandon will register this year's event with the ARRL and will update the membership during the tonight's general meeting.

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## January 2019



## VE TEST SESSION

### Test Session Results

#### 3 January 2018

We started the New Year off properly with two people testing, one new tech & one upgrade to General.

The new tech is John T. Frank KI5CVQ of Crowley & the new General is Patrick M. Taylor ~KG5YFR of Maurice.

The VEs participating this evening were: Greg ~ K5LFT, Dave ~ N4ELM & a new, first time VE, Michael ~ KI5AXR.

Congratulations to the testees & a great big TNX to the VEs in attendance !!!!!!!

Due to the government shutdown, licensing has been delayed!!

73, de Greg ~ K5LFT



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**EMMCOM** Glen Thibodeaux KF5FNP updated the group on Skywarn activities. He encouraged everyone to participate in the 2 meter net held each Tuesday night. Additional informal training exercises are planned to be conducted after the voice net is over. These activities will focus on digital communications such as VHF and HF Winlink communications using peer-to-peer and gateway connections. Everyone is encouraged to learn and practice their digital communication skills.

He also updated the group on the trial digipeater installation held in November at the W5EXI repeater site in Duson. There were no issues temporarily converting the repeater to a 2 meter packet Winlink gateway. Several stations passed packet Winlink traffic thru the system including a station from the Pontchatoula area that accessed the gateway thru a digipeater in Livingston Parish. The gateway stayed up for several weeks and experienced no performance issues. Since Winlink is the preferred method of communications by GOHSEP into their EOC in Baton Rouge, permanent installation of a packet Winlink gateway station will be further evaluated.

**Monday Night Net** Chris commended Barrett Oge KG5SSO for volunteering to be a net control station for the Monday Night Net. He also encouraged all members to participate in the net and consider serving in the net control rotation.

**Miscellaneous** Larry Leblanc mentioned to the group that more and more of the new, high performance radios are Software Defined Radios (SDR) and encouraged everyone to learn more about SDR radios. Receive only SDR receivers such as models from Airspy and SDRplay are also very popular and can be used as Panadapters and wide coverage general receivers. He also encouraged everyone to consider radios capable of being computer controlled for their next purchases. Dave Redfearn N4ELM encouraged everyone to look into using small single board computers such as Arduinos and Raspberry PI's combined with other small form factor modules to build inexpensive transceivers to do specific radio functions.

Galen Wilson reported that he was approached by the director of a multi-day, long distance trail race held in an unspecified portion of the Kisatchie Forest inquiring if our club would consider providing radio communications in support of the race. The race is conducted continuously throughout the 2-1/2 day event and radio communications between first aid stations is needed. The group expressed a strong interest in participating in the event. However, due to the short time frame available to evaluate the currently unknown logistical and communications issues the club chose to not participate in this year's event but would like to consider participating in next year's event. Steve Webre volunteered to make a scouting trip to the race location to learn more about the logistical and communication issues that would need to be addressed.

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**Adjournment** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Webre AF5VR, seconded by Derek Meche WM5TS and Chris adjourned the meeting at about 8 PM with 16 members in attendance.

Prepared by David McCutcheon

## **HAM RADIO AND DIGITAL MODES**

*By Larry Leblanc KE5KJD dated January 16, 2019*

This past Saturday a group of hams gathered at the Science Museum to "play" with radio in digital modes. We were hosted by Paul McCasland on the bottom floor of the Lafayette Science Museum. Paul explained the use of the weak signal software and demonstrated how to make contacts with others. Several hams then gave it a try. He also showed how stations that heard the signals could be seen on PskReporter, an application that records each station that logged the contact on a map of the world.

We all had a good time learning about the FT8 signal mode and how it can be used to see how your station is working. Present were KF5FNP and his wife, KE5AHD, KG5SSO, KI5ARX, KD5NVC, KE5KJD, N5KNY, and KD5JSM (and I may have missed a few). Danny had some hardware troubles with his station, debugged by all present, and finally fixed by late afternoon. All in all it was a very productive day.

This proves that all it takes to keep hams interested is a radio (working or not) and an operator. We are all looking forward to Winter Field day at Steve's farm. Included are a few pictures of the event.

Larry, KE5KJD



**ATTN:** From the Sweet shop Ladies...

Just a reminder ... We are asking for **DONATIONS** for the sweet shop, for the **AARA 59th HAMFEST** ! Candy, Cakes Pies, sugar free, trail mix, homemade cracker jacks !!! ANYTHING, except cupcakes, for some reason, they don't sell. Thanks in advance. Also we will need some help during the **SUPPER RUSH**,,, and again Saturday mourning during Bingo. We hope to make this year another success.

Jackie **KF5PCH** and Paula **KF5CNS**

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## AARA WINTER FIELD DAY 2019

by Chris Ancelet N5MCY

It all started on a cool morning at the farm of Steve (AF5VR) and Mel Webre in Church Point, LA. Although the temperature was cool, we all knew that once the sun came up, it would turn out to be a very nice January day. We had a relatively good turn out and we were able to get a few things accomplished. For starters, we knew that the club had a few 80/40 NVIS antennas that were constructed but had never been tuned, so we opted to get those two antennas ready for deployment. After deploying the antenna trailer, we hiked the mast up which allowed us to string up the dipoles for tuning. With a trusty ole antenna analyzer and 6 subject matter experts, what could possibly go wrong? Both antennas were tuned to perfection and one of them was left deployed to be used in making the WFD contacts.

Meanwhile, on the opposite end of the property, Glen Thibodeaux (KF5FNP) had deployed his mobile communications box, which is a converted military communications shelter. Turns out, Glen has this shelter set up quite nice with quick deployable antennas, HF/VHF and digital communication capabilities. Albeit small, this shelter is obviously a great tool for mobile communications, able to be quickly set up and functioning in no time flat.

Dave Redfern (N4ELM) was also set up on the south side of the property with a QRP vertical and an array of cool gadgets, solar chargers and batteries. It is always a pleasure to see Dave set up and see just how small and compact your go-kit can be to make distant contacts.

Overall, the day was a complete success and I am currently awaiting a final number of contacts made for our first 2019 Club event. Even though our participation is more on the leisure side of contesting, we always try and turn these events into a trouble shooting/building/tinkering/testing/mobile set up kind of day. It is always good to get out with friends and share stories, failures and have a few laughs in the process.

I would be remised if I didn't thank Steve (AF5VR) and Mel Webre again for allowing us to utilize their extraordinary property and facility. If you missed out on the January 26 event, I can assure you that you missed a good time.

Here is a list of AARA Members who attended the 2019 Winter Field Day.

Steve Webre – AF5VR	Glen Thibodeaux – KF5FNP
David McCutcheon – KG5JHR	Dave Redfern – N4ELM
Tom Dischler – W5OHJ	Barrett Oge – KG5SSO
Greg Richard – KE5AHD	Jim Bookter – N5NVP
Michael Cavell – KI5ARX	Paul McCasland – N5KNY
Fred Marshal – W5MLE	Chris Ancelet – N5MCY

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### 38th Hammond Hamfest Main Prize Winners

**Grand Prize:** Leslie Buie - Yaesu FT-891 HF Transceiver - HF and 6 Meters, All-mode Transceiver, 100W (25W AM)

**2nd Prize:** Bill Hayden - Rig Expert AA-230 Zoom Antenna Analyzer

**3rd Prize:** James Redmond K5QNT - Heil Sound Pro Set Elite 6 Headset

**4th Prize:** Gary Price KF5TGB - Yaesu FT-60 Dual Band Handheld

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### 59<sup>th</sup> Acadiana Hamfest 2019

Friday & Saturday March 8-9, 2019

Rayne, LA

## ORANGE HAMFEST 2019

Hosted By:

Orange ARC, Jefferson County ARC, and Beaumont ARC

The Orange Hamfest is an ARRL sanctioned event.

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 23rd, 2019

**WHERE:** Orange County Convention & Expo Center @ 11475 FM 1442

Orange, Texas 77632 (Coordinates: 30 07.28N & 093 52.92W or 30.1244,-93.8922)

**Hamfest TIME:** 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **DIRECTIONS to Hamfest:**

Take the 869 Exit off of IH-10 going East or West and turn South on FM 1442 and the Orange Co. Convention and Expo Center is half mile on the right. Follow the signs.

**Google Map and Directions from your starting point:**

**Google Search for Directions**



Assistance Animals: Service and assistance animals are permitted in all public areas and at all times.

Orange Hamfest Website

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### Hamfest Event Schedule and Fees:

6:00AM - Setup, Dealers & Tailgating

7:30AM — Hamfest opens for flea market, dealers & tailgating

10:00 AM — VE testing in Meeting Room #2

8am-12noon —Programs & Forums

1:30 PM - Grand Prize Drawings

2:00 PM—Close

### FEES:

Admission .... \$8.00 per person

(Age 12 years & younger free admission)

Dealer tables ..... \$15.00 ea

Flea market tables ..... \$15.00 ea

Tailgate spaces ..... Free - there is limited spaces  
in designated tailgating area

Friday Dinner .....\$15.00 per plate

## January 2019 AREA 2 METER NET REPORTS

NET	SESSIONS:	TOTAL CHECK-INS:	TOTAL TRAFFIC:	TOTAL TIME: Minutes	Net Manager
AARA Monday Night Net	4	55		124	KD5JSM Danny
Region 4 SkyWarn Net	4	36		88	N5MCY Chris
Silent Key Memorial Net	4	53		112	KD5JSM Danny
Thursday Night Net Temporarily down	4				

A mentor is someone whose hindsight can become your foresight.  
 ~~~ Author unknown

### AARA Monday Night 2 Meter Net Rotation

Beginning January 1, 2018, the net will not rotate between repeaters but the Net Controllers will rotate each week and held On the 146.820 W5DDL repeater only.

In case of a repeater failure, the alternate receiver will be the W5EXI repeater.

The February 2019 schedule can be downloaded and printed in Adobe Acrobat .PDF from the club website.

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/news/htm>

| DATE:      | TIME:   | REPEATER:     | PL TONE: | NCS          |
|------------|---------|---------------|----------|--------------|
| 02/04/2018 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    | Danny KD5JSM |
| 02/11/2018 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    | Paul N5KNY   |
| 02/18/2018 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    | Eric KG5JHP  |
| 02/25/2018 | 7:00 PM | 146.820 W5DDL | 103.5    | Chris N5MCY  |



#### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

|       |        |         |
|-------|--------|---------|
| 02/03 | N5NVP  | Jim     |
| 02/04 | KB5WI  | Weston  |
| 02/15 | K5ZRA  | Greg    |
| 02/16 | KD5NVC | Glenn   |
| 02/18 | AF5VR  | Steve   |
| 02/20 | KG5SIS | Cheryl  |
| 02/24 | KD5JSM | Danny   |
| 03/02 | KG5ZEW | Matthew |
| 03/05 | KG5PHJ | Eugene  |
| 03/05 | KG5PHK | Donald  |

### REGION 4 SKYWARN NET

Each Tuesday night at 7:00 PM (local), the Region 4 SkyWarn Net will take place on the 145.370 SkyWarn repeater in Lafayette. Net Control Operators will alternate each week.

In case the 145.370 repeater fails, the net will be held on the 146.820 W5DDL repeater PL Tone 103.5.

The February schedule can be found at this link:

<http://www.w5ddl.org/clubsite/news/htm>

When using the SkyWarn 145.370 repeater, be sure to use the receiver PL Tone for your area as follows:  
 NW Quadrant 114.8 - NE Quadrant 127.3 - SW Quadrant 141.3 - SE Quadrant 94.8 - Central 103.5.

Some members failed to put their birthdays on their applications for renewal / membership causing some names to be missing from the list.

**Acadiana Amateur Radio Assoc., Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 51174**  
**Lafayette, LA 70505-1174**  
**Website: <http://www.w5ddl.org>**



*Share the Fun ~  
Bring a Friend  
to be a HAM.*

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### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**59<sup>th</sup> Acadiana Hamfest 2019**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> Friday & 9<sup>th</sup> Saturday**

**Rayne, LA**

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### **FIRECRACKERS**

From Ray W5EW

#### **Ingredients:**

- ~ Saltine Crackers---4 rows or a box of Nabisco "Mini" crackers
- ~ Canola Oil---1/3 cup per row of crackers or 1/2 cup for 1 box of Mini crackers
- ~ Ranch Dressing MIX---1 package(1 ounce) or 1 heaping tablespoon
- ~ Ground Red Pepper----2 to 3 tablespoons

#### **Instructions:**

Pour Canola oil in a measuring cup and add Ranch Dressing Mix and Ground Red Pepper. Mix thoroughly.

Place crackers in a gallon zip lock bag. Pour entire container of previously mixed ingredients into bag over crackers. Close bag and roll around to mix crackers with ingredients.

Let stand for an hour and rotate bag 3 or 4 times to promote a good mixture. After an hour or so all they need is eating!

#### **FCC Information Service**

*Toll Free (WATS) for Amateur Radio license inquiries about new/ vanity call signs: 1-888-225-5322 This will connect you the FCC National Call Center, handled by the FCC's Consumer Information Bureau. Amateurs having ULS problems or questions should contact the FCC's ULS Technical Support staff at: 202-414-1250 or:*

*[ulscomm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscomm@fcc.gov).*

#### **FCC Website:**

*<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>*

*New call sign information can also be obtained from the ARRL/ VEC at 860-594-3000.*

*<http://www.arrl.org/arrlyec>*

*The mailing address to the FCC is:  
Federal Communications Commission,  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554*